

down here with GOPAC and the Speaker? I do not think so.

It is time to admit we have failed. It is time to call upon the Speaker to go back to that bipartisan spirit he had when he shook hands with the President in New Hampshire, and it is time to get real reform that will bring dignity back to this House and get the special interest groups that are courting all of this out.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, here they go again. No ideas, so let us scare America with White House distortions and union leader lies.

Before Republicans took control of Congress last year, the President's 1995 budget had a rising deficit. Now overnight he is a budget hawk.

There is no real surprise here. The winds have shifted so the President has changed his sails.

But here is the truth: It is the Republican-led Congress that has cut the deficit. It has been cut \$43 billion just last year. Yet the President has the gall to take the credit. It is like the rooster taking credit for the sunrise. We would have saved even more if the President had not stood in our way. He has literally fought against deficit reduction by begging for more spending on pet programs.

The only areas where the spending continues to grow out of control is Medicare and Medicaid, more than \$50 billion. Yet when we tried to address the problem, he looked the other way.

What we get from the White House leadership is a steady stream of whining because they cannot cut themselves off from the spending gravy train.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of White House promises withering on the vine.

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CAMPAIGN REFORM DAY

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FARR of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address this House regarding campaign reform day. That is the legislation that is going to be on the floor, and the choice today is between the two R's, between reform, which the Democratic side of the aisle is promoting, and the rich, which is what the other side is promoting.

The Speaker asked not long ago for more money to be delivered to political campaigns, and today the law allowing him to do it will be delivered to the floor. They claim that there is reform in their bill, but for whom? It hurts women, hurts minority candidates.

The Democratic bill is the only bill that responds to the American public. It sets limits. It sets limits on PAC's, sets limits on the rich, and it sets limits on wealthy candidates.

Colleagues, we have a choice today. We can reform for the rich interest or we can reform for the American public. Reject the Thomas bill. Support the alternative Democratic Farr bill. I ask for your vote.

INTRODUCING THE VETERANS' CEMETERY PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, last month 128 bronze grave markers were stolen from the Riverside National Cemetery in my district—the second largest national cemetery next to Arlington.

This was a despicable act. Our Nation should have no tolerance for those who desecrate and vandalize the graves of brave Americans.

The men and women who are buried at Riverside National Cemetery and other national cemeteries have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. They deserve our deepest respect and our eternal thanks.

Today I am introducing the Veterans' Cemetery Protection Act. This bill will create a criminal penalty of up to 10 years in prison for vandalism or desecration of a national cemetery.

If the criminals try to profit from stolen property the penalty is increased to up to 15 years in prison or a \$250,000 fine.

Many of you have already asked to cosponsor this legislation. If you are not yet a cosponsor and would like to show your support, please contact my office.

SUPPORT THE FARR CAMPAIGN REFORM ALTERNATIVE

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, many of us on both sides of the aisle have been waiting very patiently for this day when campaign finance reform would be before the House. This is our one opportunity in this term of Congress, and I must say we are extremely disappointed.

The rule that is being brought forward is very restrictive, will not allow for the bipartisan bill to be offered, and controls very much what we can consider on this floor. That is wrong.

The underlying bill moves in the wrong direction. The Republican bill would have us spend more money and put no limits on what we can be spent in campaigns. It carries out the wishes of Speaker GINGRICH when he stated that he thinks the problem with our campaign laws is that there is not enough money being spent.

My constituents disagree. We should be reforming the system to put controls on how much money can be spent and to reward small contributors, and that is exactly what the bill offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] will do. I urge my colleagues to support it.

No wonder that all of the public interest groups oppose the Republican bill, from Common Cause to Public Citizen, the League of Women Voters, U.S. PIRG. They oppose the Republican bill. I urge my colleagues to vote against that bill and support the Farr alternative.

COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Madam Speaker, let me go through some reasons I think America needs commonsense welfare reform. Between 1965 and 1994, the Government has spent \$5.4 trillion, that's trillion with a "T," on welfare programs. These programs were started under the proviso that we were waging a war on poverty. Thirty years and trillions of tax dollars later, poverty is winning.

Another reason we need to fix welfare is the alarming increase in broken families and especially teenage illegitimacy. Researchers at the University of Washington have found that increased levels of welfare benefits almost always lead to increases in the teenage illegitimate birth rate.

Welfare does not fight poverty; it perpetuates it. Welfare creates a set of incentives that crushes the work ethic, ruins the family, corrupts basic morals, and ultimately destroys the trust between people that is so necessary for civilized society.

Madam Speaker, it's way past time to fix the broken welfare system.

NO SUBSTANTIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, the most fundamental way that we can reform the way the Congress does business is to pass campaign finance reform. The Republican leadership today will renege on that promise to offer real, substantive campaign finance reform. It will happen today.

We had an opportunity. We were going to have reform week, and we have nothing. Now we have the Republicans presenting a bill before this House, calling it reform, that is a phony fraud.

Campaign finance reform is up, and not one Member of the Republican Party got up before this House in one-minute to defend their piece of fraud legislation. Does that not speak volumes about today's debate? Not one of